

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /137 W
----- 027994

R 221742 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7908

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3480

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BE, PINS, PFOR, OAU, BY

SUBJ: BURUNDI PROBLEM

REF: STATE 118569

1. EMBOFFS BRIEFED LEBRUN, FONOFF DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ON US INITIATIVE ON BURUNDI PER REFTEL JUNE 21 AND REQUESTED BELGIAN VIEWS ON SITUATION AND ON MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BRING ABOUT SOLUTION. LEBRUN SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD REPRISALS IN BURUNDI HAD LARGELY SUBSIDED AND THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS BASED LARGELY ON REFUGEE TESTIMONY WHICH SOMEWHAT DATED. HE HAD NOT KNOWN OF REPORTED MILITARY OPERATION TO CLEAR MOSSO REGION. LEBRUN AGREED NEVERTHELESS THAT SITUATION WERE IN BURUNDI POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE AND SAID BELGIANS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT SITUATION COULD LEAD TO ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI.

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2. LEBRUN PRAISED US INITIATIVE BUT WAS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL THAT OAU WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION RE BURUNDI. HE NOTED THAT RECENT OAU SUMMIT HAD SIDESTEPED ISSUE. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT BURUNDI WOULD ALLOW ANY KIND OF UN PRESENCE. LEBRUN SAID BEST HOPE FOR INFLUENCE ON GRB WAS THROUGH MAJOR AFRICAN LEADERS, PARTICULARLY MOBUTU, AND CONSIDERED APPROACH TO MOBUTU AS MOST IMPORTANT STEP USG HAD TAKEN. LEBRUN FELT ALSO THAT US SHOULD CONSIDER SIMILAR APPROACH TO GOWON, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE IS NEW OAU PRESIDENT. LEBRUN CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT MOBUTU SHOULD BE INFORMED OF ANY SUCH APPROACH BECAUSE OF MOBUTU'S RIVALRY WITH GOWON FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP. FOR LONG TERM, BECAUSE OF RIVALRY AMONG TUTSIS, LEBRUN FORESAW NO SOLUTION UNTIL EXTREMISTS ("LES DURS") SUCH AS SIMBANANIYE REMOVED FROM POWER.

3. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NOW PLAN TO TAKE MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOLUTION IN BURUNDI. LEBRUN STRESSED THAT SUCH INITIATIVE MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BECAUSE BELGIUM SUSPECT IN EYES OF GRB. MOREOVER, BELGIUM WOULD HAVE LITTLE WEIGHT WITH OAU. LEBRUN WILL BE FOLLOWING BURUNDI SITUATION CLOSELY, HOWEVER; AND IS ANXIOUS TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH USG. STRAUSS- HUPE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE03480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730628/aaaajmnq.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 118569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980224
Subject: BURUNDI PROBLEM
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BE, BY, OAU
To: ADDIS ABABA
AF
BUJUMBURA
DAR ES SALAAM
KIGALI
KINSHASA
LAGOS

SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005